Speaker's Ruling *re*: allotment of seats to Members joining another Party

Sri M. NAGAPPA.—You were pleased to say on the other dav that you will give a ruling on seating arrangement for Memberss. Will you kindly give your ruling ?

Mr. SPEAKER.—Yes. Sri M. Nagappa and Sri D. B. Kalmankar have sought to raise a matter other than a point of order under Rule 312, regarding certain changes in the allotment of seats to some Hon'ble Members under Rule 4.

Incidentally they have, while referring to certain principles and conventions which in their opinion should regulate the allotment of seats, requested the Chair to clarify the reasons, principles and conventions on the basis of which, the allotment of seats for members was changed.

Though Rule 4 gives unfettered discretion to the Speaker in the allotment of seats, he is guided in the matter by well established conventions and principles.

The issue involves recognition of political parties and groups in the Assembly and allotment of seats to their members so that they might function conveniently and efficiently.

It has been a time-honoured convention that the Ruling Party is allotted seats on the Right side of the Chair and the Opposition on the Left side. The second convention is that, as far as possible a compact block of seats should be allotted to the parties and groups and to leave the individual allotment of seats to members to the party leadership. While allotting compact blocks, the strength of the party or group membership is taken into consideration. These conventions have been followed in this Hon. House also. The immediate provocation for the Hon. Members Sri Nagappa and Sri D. B. Kalmankar is the change in the allotment of seats to some Hon. Members who have severed their connection with their erstwhile party and joined the Ruling Party.

It is not for the Chair to consider the reasons or justification about the change in the party alignment for effecting changes in the allotment of seats. It is for the Chair to be satisfied about the resignation from the erstwhile party or group and about joining or admission to a new party or group, before allotting new seats. This matter came up before the Presiding Officers' Conference recently held at Trivandrum. This Conference has taken a decision which is as follows :

> "In case a member of one Party or Group subsequently chooses to change his party or group affiliation, he must write to the Speaker accordingly. If the Speaker is satisfied that the decision has been duly communicated in writing by the member to the Party or Group from which he has severed

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his loyalty and the party or group which he has joined has communicated in writing its acceptance of his membership to the Speaker, he may recognise the change. The Committee further recommend that these principles should be followed in all State Legislature in the matter of giving recognition to a composite Party or Group or to a party or group composed of different Parties or groups".

I have followed these principles in effecting changes in the allotment of seats. The Hon. Members have stated in writing that they have resigned from the erstwhile party or group and joined the Ruling Party. I have also received communication from the Leader of the Ruling Party for having admitted them to his Party.

In view of the statement, the matter does not admit of any further discussion and it should be closed.

Sri M. NAGAPPA.—What about another ruling which you promised to give on my point of order on the other day ?

Mr. SPEAKER.—I shall try to give it at the end of the day or tomorrow.

ಶ್ರೀ ವಾಟಾಳ್ ನಾಗರಾಜ್ (ಚಿಕ್ಕಪೇಟೆ).—ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ತಾವು ಈಗ ರೂಲಿಂಗ್ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರಿ. ನಾನು ನಿನ್ನೆ ಪಕ್ಷಾಂತರ ಮಾಡಿದವರಿಗೆ ಬಹುಮಾನವಾಗಿ ಕರಿಮಣಿ, ಬಿಚ್ಚೋಲೆ ಮುಂತಾದುವುಗಳನ್ನು ಕಳಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೆ. ಅದನ್ನು ಅವರಿಗೆ ಕಳಿಸಿದ್ದೀರಾ ?

Mr. SPEAKER.—Members are not permitted to send such articles. It is a breach of parliamentary decency.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ಬಂಗಾರಪ್ಪ.—ತಾವು ಕೊಟ್ಟ ರೂಲಿಂಗನ್ನು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಕೇಳಿದೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರು ಪೊನ್ನೆ ಓರಿಯೆಂಟೇಶನ್ ಕಾನ್‌ಫರೆನ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ—ಪಕ್ಷಾಂತರ ಪಿಡುಗು ಇರಬಾರದು, ಆ ರೀತಿ ಯಾರು ಬರುತ್ತಾರೆ, ಅವರನ್ನು ಅಡ್ಮಿಟ್ ಮಾಡಬಾರದು ಎಂದು.. ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮಕೃಷ್ಣ ಹೆಗ್ಗಡೆಯವರೂ ಹೇಳಿಕೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಈಗ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಇವರು ಅಡ್ಮಿಟ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ? * * * *

Mr. SPEAKER.—Further remarks need not be recorded. The member as utilised the time of the House in a wrong manner. Now we will go to the next item in the agenda.

Leave of Absence to Sri C. M. Churchihalmath—Grant of.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I have received a letter dated 21st Junuary 1969 from Dr. C. M. Churchihalmath, Member, Legislative Assembly, requesting for leave of absence under rule 188 of the Rules of Procedure from attending the current sittings of the House from 25th Junuary 1969.

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* * * * Matter not recorded as ordered by the Chair.